

Amendments to the Claims:

1. – 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) An emulsion of covalently coated crystals in a carrier useful for dermabrasion comprising:

(a) sharp-edged covalently coated crystals selected from the group consisting of: magnesium oxide and a mixture of magnesium and aluminum oxide, where said crystals comprise a diameter of 100-1200 microns, wherein said crystals comprise a covalent coating of 1-2% methicone by weight; and

(b) an emulsion carrier comprising at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a gel, a lotion, a thick solution, a cream, a pasts, and a wax, wherein the weight ratio of crystals to carrier is 2-99%, wherein the emulsion comprises a gel-like quality sufficient to keep the emulsion on human skin during a skin rejuvenation treatment.

22. (Previously presented) The emulsion of claim 21, wherein the covalent coating is characterized for covalent binding of the methicone to the magnesium oxide or the mixture of magnesium and aluminum oxide, by the method of:

suspending the coated crystals in standardized thick lotion for 12 to 18 hours; and observing the suspension for the presence or absence of H₂ formation, wherein the absence of H₂ formation is indicative of covalent binding of the methicone to the magnesium oxide or the mixture of magnesium and aluminum oxide.

23. (Previously presented) A method of producing the emulsion of coated crystals in a carrier useful for microdermabrasion of claim 21, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing magnesium oxide crystals or a mixture of magnesium oxide crystals and aluminum oxide crystals;
- (b) mixing the crystals with methicone and a catalyst selected from ammonia and steam, to form a slurry, thereby effecting a covalent interaction of the crystals with the methicone to form covalently coated crystals;
- (c) baking the covalently coated crystals at a temperature in the range of 150-450°F until the covalently coated crystals are dry and the catalyst is removed; and
- (d) mixing the dry covalently coated crystals with an emulsion carrier at a weight ratio of 2-99% crystals to carrier, wherein the emulsion carrier comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a gel, a lotion, a thick solution, a cream, a paste, and a wax.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the temperature is about 300°F.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 further comprising testing the coated crystals for covalent binding of the methicone to the magnesium oxide crystals or the mixture of magnesium oxide crystals and aluminum oxide crystals before mixing the coated crystals with the emulsion carrier, said testing comprising the steps of:

suspending the coated crystals in a standardized thick lotion from 12 to 18 hours; and observing the suspension for the presence of absence of H₂ formation, wherein the absence of H₂ formation is indicative of covalent binding of the methicone to the magnesium oxide or mixture of magnesium and aluminum oxide.

26. (New) A cosmetic composition comprising sharp-edged crystals selected from the group consisting of magnesium oxide, aluminum oxide, and combinations thereof, wherein said crystals have a particle size from 40 to 2000 microns.

27. (New) The cosmetic composition of claim 26, wherein said crystals have a particle size from 100 to 1200 microns.
28. (New) The cosmetic composition of claim 26, wherein said crystals have a particle size from 600 to 800 microns.
29. (New) A method for abrading skin surface, said method comprising applying a cosmetic composition to said surface, wherein the composition comprises sharp-edged crystals selected from the group consisting of magnesium oxide, aluminum oxide, and combinations thereof, and wherein said crystals have a particle size from 40 to 2000 microns.
30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said crystals of said cosmetic composition have a particle size from 100 to 1200 microns.
31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said crystals of said cosmetic composition have a particle size from 600 to 800 microns.
32. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said skin surface is on the face.
33. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said cosmetic composition is applied to the skin surface in a circular motion.
34. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising rinsing said composition from the skin surface with warm water.
35. (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising patting the skin surface dry.